

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract on page 11 as follows:

ABSTRACT

~~The present invention is directed to a~~ A device for connecting a longitudinal carrier, *for example*, a longitudinal spinal rod, to a bone fixation means, *for example*, a pedicle screw[[]] ~~The device~~ , includes a connection element having an upper end, a lower end, and a cavity extending from the upper end to the lower end[[],] ~~the~~ . The cavity having has a reduced diameter portion at the lower end ~~thereof thereby~~ forming a shoulder for engaging the head of the bone fixation means. The connection element ~~further including~~ includes a transverse channel for receiving the longitudinal carrier. The device further includes a sealing cap ~~incorporating tensioning means~~ for securing the longitudinal carrier within the transverse channel. The sealing cap ~~being~~ is secured to the connection element ~~by way of~~ with arresting means[[],] ~~wherein the arresting means~~ that preferably includes a plurality of ~~bulges, i.e.,~~ projections[[],] formed on the outer surface of the connection element and ~~the sealing cap includes~~ a plurality of complementary ~~depressions, i.e.,~~ recesses formed on the sealing cap. ~~The device may further incorporate securing means in order to prevent the bone fixation means from passing through the upper end of the cavity once the bone fixation means has been introduced into the connection element.~~